

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

TAKE A STAND AGAINST TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

October 31, 2006

Dear Colleague:

- Did you know that one in three female teens in a dating relationship report having feared for their safety?
- Did you know that one in two teens in a serious relationship have compromised their beliefs to please their partner?
- Did you know that one in five teens in a serious relationship report having been hit slapped or pushed by a partner?
- Did you know that 29 percent of girls in a relationship report having been pressured to have sex or engage in sex they did not want?

Clearly, the crime of teen dating violence, including physical, emotional and sexual assault, is a reality for many American teenagers. Like drug abuse, it's a reality of which many parents are unaware.

The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across the nation who chose to take a stand and put a stop to teen dating violence. Initiated in 2004 by the American Bar Association and now supported by dozens of national, state and local organizations, the call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized in February of 2006 when both Houses of Congress declared the first week in February "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week."

A number of governors called for statewide recognition of the week this year and local schools and organizations were also involved across the nation.

We will be introducing a resolution calling for February 5 – 9, 2007, to be designated "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week." As it did last year, the resolution will call on government representatives and agencies, private organizations and public officials to promote activities in their respective communities that raise awareness of the high incidence of teen dating violence that occurs among our teens every day, as well as prevention strategies.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this resolution, thereby taking an important and meaningful stand against teen dating violence. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Laura Thurston Goodroe in Senator Crapo's office at 4-7500.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike Crapo



Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton



Senator Joseph Lieberman



Senator Lisa Murkowski